



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

March 24, 2006

Mr. Peter T. Young  
Chairperson  
Board of Land and Natural Resources  
Post Office Box 621  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

Aloha Mr. Young: *Peter*

SUBJECT State of Hawaii Comments on the Draft of the Proposed Sanctuary Regulations for the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI)

Thank you for your March 24, 2006 letter containing the State's comments on the draft Sanctuary regulations for the proposed Northwestern Hawaiian Islands National Marine Sanctuary. We very much appreciate the efforts by you and your staff to review and provide comment on the draft regulations, especially given the short turn around that was required. We have begun reviewing the comments provided and look forward to reviewing them with you and your staff to gain clarification and address each comment.

Again, we appreciate your willingness to provide comments on such a short time table. Your efforts reflect the positive relationship that has been cultivated between the State and the National Marine Sanctuary Program. We value this close working relationship and look forward to the contributions it will have on the successful designation of the proposed Northwestern Hawaiian Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

Mahalo,

*T. 'Aulani Wilhelm*

T. 'Aulani Wilhelm  
Acting Reserve Manager  
Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve

